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Incorporating Malone-Stranger Review

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VAN GOGH'S EAR

At the exhibit the ear hangs next to "Bedroom at Arles." A normal ear in every way, but luminous, like a flat pearl button. The lobe is the size of a thumbprint, and whiter, more pulpy than the rest of the ear. People walk past. Some gasp, some smirk, some sidle up and whisper furtively into it. One man looks awed, recreating the moment when Gauguin received it with the morning mail. The museum had to pay large sums of money to purchase the ear from its owner, a doctor in Holland, who kept it on his desk as a paperweight. This is the first public showing and the reviews have been splendid. Rubber copies of the ear are being sold at the counter. If you look closely, you can see they are exact replicas, complete to the fine red down studding the earlobe.